



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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Statement on Scope of Practice

The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation, frequently receives inquiries regarding whether certain procedures can be performed by a cosmetologist within the scope of their licensure. While the Department does not issue “advisory opinions” or dispense legal advice, the public’s interest in these procedures merits this information from the Department. Parties seeking a legal opinion should consult with their own attorney.

Cosmetologists are permitted to use a straight razor to engage in neck shaving services under the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act, 225 ILCS 410/. The Department interprets the scope of practice of a cosmetologist, as defined in the Act and compared with the scope of practice of a barber, to permit a cosmetologist to use a straight razor to shave the neck.

Please see the Department’s website for information.